SALISBURY, N. C., MARCH 7, 1839

[illegible] of that motion, [illegible] to say, that while I regret, sir, Mr. President, to say, that while I regret, sir, the painful wounded feelings of the Minister of the United States at the Court of St. James such to excuse the action which he was provoked to take of that opinion, he may, humble opinion, he would have better consulted the dignity of his station and of his country in treating him with contemptuous silence. He would exclude, as from European society—he who himself can only obtain a contraband admission, and is received with scornful repugnance into it! If he be no more deserving of our society than we are of his, he may rest assured that a state of eternal non-intercourse will exist between us. Yes sir, I think the American Minister would have best pursued the dictates of true dignity by regarding the language of the member of the British House of Commons as the malignant ravings of the plunderer of his own country, and the libeller of a foreign and kindred people.

But the means to which I have already adverted are not the only ones which this third class of ultra-abolitionists are employing to effect their ultimate end.—They began their operations by professing to employ only persuasive means in appealing to the humanity, and enlightening the understandings, of the slave-holding portion of the Union. If there was some kindness in this avowed motive, it must be acknowledged that there was rather a presumptuous display also of an assumed superiority in intelligence and knowledge. For some time they continued to make these appeals to our duty and our interest; but impatient with the slow influence of their logic upon our stupid minds, they recently resolved to change their system of action. To the agency of their powers of persuasion, they now propose to substitute the powers of the ballot box; and he must be blind to what is passing before us, who does not perceive that the inevitable tendency of their proceedings is, if these should be found insufficient, to invoke, finally, the more potent powers of the bayonet.

Mr. President, it is at this alarming stage of the proceedings of the ultra-abolitionists that I would seriously invite every considerate man in the country solemnly to pause, and deliberately to reflect, not merely on our existing posture, but upon that dreadful precipice down which they would hurry us. It is because these ultra-abolitionists have ceased to employ the instruments of reason and persuasion, have made their cause political, and have appealed to the ballot box, that I am indeed, upon this occasion, to address you.

There have been three epochs in the history of our country at which the spirit of abolition displayed itself. The first was immediately after the formation of the present Federal Government. When the Constitution was about going into operation, its powers were not well understood by the community at large, and remained to be accurately interpreted and defined. At that period numerous abolition societies were formed, comprising not merely the Society of Friends, but many other good men. Petitions were presented to Congress, praying for the abolition of slavery. They were received without serious opposition, referred, and reported upon by a committee. The report stated that the General Government had no power to abolish slavery as it existed in the several States, and that these States themselves had exclusive jurisdiction over the subject. The report was generally acquiesced in, and satisfaction and tranquility ensued; the abolition societies thereafter limiting their exertions, in respect to the black population, to offices of humanity within the scope of existing laws.

The next period when the subject of slavery, and abolition incidentally, was brought into notice and discussion, was that on the memorable occasion of the admission of the State of Missouri into the Union. The struggle was long, strenuous, and fearful. It is too recent to make it necessary to do more than merely advert to it, and to say, that it was finally composed by one of those compromises characteristic of our institutions, and of which the Constitution itself is the most signal instance.

The third is that in which we now find ourselves.—Various causes, Mr. President, have contributed to produce the existing excitement on the subject of abolition. The principal one, perhaps, is the example of British emancipation of the slaves in the islands adjacent to our country. Such is the similarity in laws, in language, in institutions, and in common origin, between Great Britain and the United States, that no great measure of national policy can be adopted in the one country without producing a considerable degree of influence in the other. Confounding the totally different cases together, of the powers of the British Parliament and those of the Congress of the United States, and the totally different situations of the British West India Islands, and the slaves in the sovereign and independent States of this Confederacy, superficial men have inferred from the undecided British experiment the practicability of the abolition of slavery in these States. The powers of the British Parliament are unlimited, and are often described to be omnipotent. The powers of the American Congress, on the contrary, are few, cautiously limited, scrupulously excluding all that are not granted, and, above all, carefully and absolutely excluding all power over the existence or continuance of slavery in the several States. The slaves, too, upon which British legislation operated, were not in the bosom of the kingdom, but in remote and feeble colonies having no voice in Parliament. The West India slave-holder was neither represented nor representative in that Parliament. And whilst I most fervently wish complete success to the British experiment of West India emancipation, I confess that I have fearful forebodings of a disastrous termination of it. Whatever it may be, I think it must be admitted that, if the British Parliament treated the West India slaves as freemen, it also treated the West India freemen as slaves. If, instead of these slaves being separated by a wide ocean from the parent country, three or four millions of African negro slaves had been dispersed over England, Scotland, Wales, and Ireland, and their owners had been members of the British Parliament—a case which would have presented some analogy to that of our own country—does any one believe that it would have been expedient or practicable to have emancipated them, leaving them to remain, with all their embittered feelings, in the United Kingdom, boundless as the powers of the British Parliament are?

Other causes have conspired with the British example to produce the existing excitement from abolition. I say it with profound regret, but with no intention to occasion irritation here or elsewhere, that there are persons in both parts of the Union who have sought to mingle abolition with politics, and to array one portion of the Union against the other. It is the misfortune in free countries that, in high party times, a disposition too often prevails to seize hold of every thing which can strengthen the one side or weaken the other.—Charges of fostering abolition designs have been heedlessly and unjustly made by one party against the other. Prior to the late election of the present President of the United States, he was charged with being an abolitionist, and abolition designs were imputed to many of his supporters. Much as I was opposed to his election, and am to his Administration, I neither shared in making nor believing the truth of the charge. He was scarcely installed in office before the same charge was directed against those who opposed his election.

Mr. President, it is not true, and I rejoice that it is not true, that either of the two great parties in this country has any designs or aim at bottom. I should deeply lament if it were true. I should consider, if it were true, that the danger to the stability of our system would be infinitely greater than any which does, I hope, actually exist. Whilst neither party can be, I think, justly accused of any abolition tendency or purpose, both have profited, and both have been injured, in particular localities, by the accession or abstraction of abolition support. If the account were fairly stated, I believe the party to which I am opposed has profited much more, and been injured much less, than that to which I belong. But I am the, for that reason, from being disposed to assume my exoneration of being abolitionists.

And, now, Mr. President, allow me to consider the several claims in which the authority of Congress is invoked by these abolition petitioners upon the subject of [illegible]

[illegible] presented, in point of [illegible] were made by the States of Maryland and Virginia. The object of the cession was to establish a seat of Government of the United States; and the grant in the Constitution of exclusive legislation must be understood, and always interpreted, as having relation to the object of the cession. It was with a full knowledge of this clause in the Constitution that these two States ceded to the General Government the ten miles square, constituting the District of Columbia.—In making the cession, they supposed that it was to be applied, and applied solely, to the purposes of a seat of Government, for which it was asked. When it was made, slavery existed in both those Commonwealths, and in the ceded territory, as it now continues to exist in all of them. Neither Maryland nor Virginia could have anticipated that, whilst the institution remained within their respective limits, its abolition would be attempted by Congress without their consent. Neither of them would probably have made an unconditional cession, if they could have anticipated such a result.

From the nature of the provision in the Constitution, and the avowed object of the acquisition of the territory, two duties arise on the part of Congress. The first is, to render the District available, comfortable, and convenient, as a seat of Government of the whole Union; the other is, to govern the people within the District so as best to promote their happiness and prosperity.—These objects are totally distinct in their nature, and, in interpreting and exercising the grant of power of exclusive legislation, that distinction should be constantly borne in mind. Is it necessary, in order to render this a comfortable seat of the General Government, to abolish slavery within its limits? No one can or will advance such a proposition. The Government has remained here near forty years without the slightest inconvenience from the presence of domestic slavery. Is it necessary to the well-being of the people of the District that slavery should be abolished from amongst them? They not only neither ask nor desire, but are almost unanimously opposed to it. It exists here in the mildest and most mitigated form. In a population of 39,834 there were, at the last enumeration of the population of the United States, but 6,119 slaves. The number has not probably much increased since. They are dispersed over the ten miles square, engaged in the quiet pursuits of husbandry, or in menial offices in domestic life. If it were necessary to the efficiency of this place as a seat of the General Government to abolish slavery, which is utterly denied, the abolition should be confined to the necessity which prompts it, that is, to the limits of the city of Washington itself. Beyond those limits, persons concerned in the Government of the United States have no more to do with the inhabitants of the District than they have with the inhabitants of the adjacent counties of Maryland and Virginia which lie beyond the District.

To abolish slavery within the District of Columbia whilst it remains in Virgina and Maryland, situated, as that District is, within the very heart of those States, would expose them to great practical inconvenience and annoyance. The District would become a place of refuge and escape for fugitive slaves from the two States, and a place from which a spirit of discontent, insubordination, and insurrection might be fostered and encouraged in the two States. Suppose, as was at one time under consideration, Pennsylvania had granted ten miles square within its limits for the purpose of a seat of the General Government: could Congress, without a violation of good faith, have introduced and established slavery within the bosom of that Commonwealth, in the ceded territory, after she had abolished it so long ago as the year 1780? Yet the inconvenience to Pennsylvania in the case supposed would have been much less than that to Virginia and Maryland in the case we are arguing.

It was upon this view of the subject that the Senate at its last session, solemnly declared that it would be a violation of implied faith, resulting from the transaction of the cession, to abolish slavery within the District of Columbia. And would it not be? By implied faith is meant that when a grant is made for one avowed and declared purpose known to the parties, the grant should not be perverted to another purpose unavowed and undeclared, and injurious to the grantor. The grant, in the case we are considering, of the territory of Columbia, was for a seat of Government. Whatever power is necessary to accomplish that object is carried along by the grant. But the abolition of slavery is not necessary to the enjoyment of this site as a seat of the General Government. The grant in the Constitution, of exclusive power of legislation over the District, was made to ensure the exercise of an exclusive authority of the General Government to render this place a safe and secure seat of Government, and to promote the well-being of the inhabitants of the District. The power granted ought to be interpreted and exercised solely to the end for which it was granted. The language of the grant was necessarily broad, comprehensive, and exclusive, because all the exigencies which might arise to render this a secure seat of the General Government could not have been foreseen and provided for. The language may possibly be sufficiently comprehensive to include a power of abolition, but it would not at all thence follow that the power could be rightfully exercised. The case may be resembled to that of a plenipotentiary invested with a plenary power, but who, at the same time, has positive instructions from his Government as to the kind of treaty which he is to negotiate and conclude. If he violates those instructions, and concludes a different treaty, his Government is not bound by it. And if the foreign Government is aware of the violation, it acts in bad faith. Or, it may be illustrated by an example drawn from private life. I am an endorser for my friend on a note discounted in Bank. He applies to me to endorse another to renew it, which I do in blank. Now this gives him power to make any other use of my note which he pleases. But if, instead of applying it to the intended purpose, he goes to a broker and sells it, thereby doubling my responsibility for him, he commits a breach of trust, and a violation of the good faith implied in the whole transaction.

But, Mr. President, if this reasoning were as erroneous as I believe it to be correct and conclusive, is the affair of the liberation of six thousand negro slaves in this District, disconnected with the three millions of slaves in the United States, of sufficient magnitude to agitate, distract, and embitter this great Confederacy?

The next case in which the petitioners ask the exercise of the power of Congress, relates to slavery in the Territory of Florida.

Florida is the extreme Southern portion of the United States. It is bounded on all its land sides by slave States, and is several hundred miles from the nearest free State. It almost extends within the tropics, and the nearest important island to it on the water side is Cuba, a slave island. This simple statement of its geographical position should of itself decide the question. When, by the treaty of 1819 with Spain, it was ceded to the United States, slavery existed within it. By the terms of that treaty, the effects and property of the inhabitants are secured to them, and they are allowed to remove and take them away, if they think proper to do so, without limitation as to time. If it were expedient, therefore, to abolish slavery in it, it could not be done consistently with the treaty, without granting to the owners [illegible] ble time to remove their [illegible] the compromise which [illegible] of the act for the ad[illegible] in the year 1[illegible]

[illegible] States and the free States [illegible] ritories of the United States [illegible] Louisiana [illegible] States, and those north of it [illegible] to south of that line, and [illegible] ding to the spirit of the compromise [illegible] vailed at the period alluded to, admit it as a slave State. It may be true that the compromise does not in terms embrace Florida, and that it is not absolutely binding and obligatory; but all candid and impartial men must agree that it ought not to be disregarded without the most weighty considerations, and that nothing could be more to be deprecated than to open anew the bleeding wounds which were happily bound up and healed by that compromise. Florida is the only remaining Territory to be admitted into the Union with the institution of domestic slavery, while Wisconsin and Iowa are nearly ripe for admission without it.

The next instance in which the exercise of the power of Congress is solicited is that of prohibiting what is denominated by the petitioners the slave-trade between the States, or, as it is described in abolition petitions, the traffic in human beings between the States. This exercise of the power of Congress is claimed under that clause of the Constitution which invests it with authority to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian tribes. The power to regulate commerce among the several States, like other powers in the Constitution, has hitherto remained dormant in respect to the interior trade by land between the States. It was a power granted, like all other powers of the General Government, to secure peace and harmony among the States. Hitherto it has not been necessary to exercise it. All the cases in which, during the progress of time, it may become expedient to exert the general authority to regulate commerce between the States, cannot be conceived. We may easily imagine, however, contingencies which, if they were to happen, might require the interposition of the common authority. If, for example, the State of Ohio were, by law, to prohibit any vessel entering the port of Cincinnati, from the port of Louisville in Kentucky, if that case be not already provided for by the laws which regulate our coasting-trade, it would be competent to the General Government to annul the prohibition emanating from State authority. Or, if the State of Kentucky were to prohibit the introduction, within its limits, of any article of trade, the production of the industry of the inhabitants of the State of Ohio, the General Government might, by its authority, supersede the State enactment. But I deny that the General Government has any authority whatever, from the Constitution, to abolish what is called the slave-trade, or, in other words, to prohibit the removal of slaves from one slave State to another slave State.

The grant in the Constitution is of a power of *regulation*, and not prohibition. It is conservative, not destructive. Regulation *ex vi termini* implies the continued existence or prosecution of the thing regulated. Prohibition implies total discontinuance or annihilation. The regulation intended was designed to facilitate and accommodate, not to obstruct and incommode the commerce to be regulated. Can it be pretended that, under this power to regulate commerce among the States, Congress has the power to prohibit the transportation of live stock which, in countless numbers, are daily passing from the Western and interior States to the Southern, Southwestern, and Atlantic States? The moment the incontestable fact is admitted, that negro slaves are property, the law of moveable property irresistibly attaches itself to them, and secures the right of carrying them from one to another State, where they are recognised as property, without any hindrance whatever from Congress.

But, Mr. President, I will not detain the Senate longer on the subjects of slavery within the district and in Florida, and of the right of congress to prohibit the removal of slaves from one State to another. These, as I have already intimated, with ultra-abolitionists are but so many masked batteries, concealing the real ultimate point of attack. That point of attack is the institution of domestic slavery as it exists in these States. It is to liberate three millions of slaves held in bondage within them.—And now allow me, sir, to glance at the insurmountable obstacles, which lie in the way of the accomplishment of this end, and at some of the consequences which would ensue if it were possible to attain it.

The first impediment is the utter and absolute want of all power on the part of the General Government to effect the purpose. The Constitution of the United States creates a limited Government, comprising comparatively few powers, and leaving the residuary mass of political power in the possession of the several States. It is well known that the subject of slavery interposed one of the greatest difficulties in the formation of the Constitution. It was happily compromised and adjusted in a spirit of harmony and patriotism. According to that compromise, no power whatever was granted to the General Government, in respect to domestic slavery, but that which relates to taxation and representation, and the power to restore fugitive slaves to their lawful owners. All other power in regard to the institution of slavery was retained exclusively by the States, to be exercised by them severally, according to their respective views of their own peculiar interest. The Constitution of the United States never could have been formed upon the principle of investing the General Government with authority to abolish the institution at its pleasure. It never can be continued for a single day if the exercise of such a power be assumed or usurped.

But it may be contended by these ultra-abolitionists that their object is not to stimulate the action of the General Government, but to operate upon the States themselves in which the institution of domestic slavery exists. If that be their object, why are these abolition societies and movements all confined to the free States? Why are the slave States wantonly and cruelly assailed? Why do the abolition presses teem with publications tending to excite hatred and animosity on the part of the inhabitants of the free States against those of the slave States? Why is Congress petitioned? The free States have no more power or right to interfere with institutions in the slave States, confided to the exclusive jurisdiction of those States, than they would have to interfere with institutions existing in any foreign country. What would be thought of the formation of societies in Great Britain, the issue of numerous inflammatory publications, and the sending out of lecturers throughout the kingdom, denouncing and aiming at the destruction of any of the institutions of France.—Would they be regarded as proceedings warranted by good neighborhood? Or what will be thought of the formation of societies in the slave States, the issue of violent and inflammatory tracts, and the dispatch of missionaries, putting out [illegible] the exclusive control of the free States? In their [illegible]

[illegible] Mr. President, allow me to consider the several claims in which the authority of Congress is invoked by these abolition petitioners upon the subject of [illegible]

[illegible] ing, of which, with the per[illegible] I shall now proceed to avail myself, to [illegible] on the particular objects of the [illegible] interesting subject with [illegible] the Senate, said Mr. Clay, that [illegible] the most judicious course with abo[illegible] been pursued of late pursued by Con[illegible] that it would have been wisest [illegible] and referred them, without opposition, [illegible] against their objects in a calm and [illegible] appeal to the good [illegible] It has been supposed, [illegible] of Congress that it was most [illegible] to receive the petitions at all, or, [illegible] to act definitely upon them. [illegible] between these oppo[illegible] to an absolute rejection of [illegible] But there is a great dif[illegible] proceeding; and, Mr. President, [illegible] the conduct of human affairs has [illegible] that a neglect to observe estab[illegible] attended with more mischievous [illegible] than the infliction of a positive injury.—[illegible] to private life, a violation of [illegible] and economies of society cannot [illegible] serious prejudice. I fear, sir, that [illegible] have acquired a considerable apparent [illegible] with the object which they have in [illegible] and totally different question arising [illegible] violation of the right of petition. I [illegible] well, and take great pleasure in testifying, [illegible] from the intention of the ma[illegible] of the Senate, from which I differed, then to vio[illegible] right of petition in any case in which, accord[illegible] that right could be constitution[illegible] where the object of the petition could [illegible] granted. Still, it must be owned [illegible] cannot hold of the fact of the [illegible] have received in Con[illegible] upon the minds [illegible] of the community. This, I think, [illegible] by the course which I should have been glad to have [illegible]

And I desire now, Mr. President, to advert to some of those topics which, if they had been carefully embodied in a report by a committee of the Senate, and which, I am persuaded, would have checked the progress, if it had not altogether arrested the efforts of abolition. I am sensible, sir, that this work would have been accomplished with much greater ability and with much happier effect, under the auspices of a committee, than it can be by me. But, anxious as I always am to contribute whatever is in my power to the harmony, [illegible] and happiness of this great people, I feel myself irresistibly impelled to do whatever is in my power, [illegible] as I feel myself to be, to disuade the Public from continuing to agitate a subject fraught with such direful consequences.

There are three classes of persons opposed, or apparently opposed, to the continued existence of slavery [illegible] United States. The first are those who, from [illegible] of philanthropy and humanity, are conscien[illegible] opposed to the existence of slavery, but who [illegible] at the same time, to any disturbance of the peace and tranquility of the Union, or the [illegible] of the powers of the States composing [illegible] In this class may be comprehended [illegible] society of "Friends," one [illegible] is, an abhorrence of war [illegible] cultivation of peace and good [illegible] The next class consists of ap[illegible]—that is, those who, having been [illegible] that the right of petition has been violated [illegible] Congress, co-operate with the abolitionists for the [illegible] of asserting and vindicating that right.—And the third class are ultra-abolitionists who are resolved to persevere in the pursuit of their object at all hazards, and without regard to any consequences, however calamitous they may be. With them the rights of property are nothing; the deficiency of the powers of the General Government is nothing; the acknowledged and incontestable powers of the States are nothing; civil war, a dissolution of the Union, and the overthrow of a government in which are concentrated the fondest hopes of the civilized world, are nothing. A single idea has taken possession of their minds, and onward they pursue it, overlooking all barriers, reckless and regardless of all consequences. With this class, the immediate abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia, and in the Territory of Florida, the prohibition of the removal of slaves from State to State, and the refusal to admit any new State, comprising within its limits the institution of domestic slavery, are but so many means conducing to the accomplishment of the ultimate but perilous end at which they avowedly and boldly aim; are but so many short stages in the long and steady road to the distant goal at which they would finally arrive. Their purpose is abolition, universal [illegible] if it can, forcibly if it must. Their [illegible] is no longer concealed by the thinnest veil; it is [illegible] avowed. Utterly destitute of constitutional or [illegible] power, living in totally distinct [illegible] to the communities in which the [illegible] on which they would operate besides, so far as [illegible] power over that subject, as if they [illegible] Africa or Asia, they nevertheless promulgate as the [illegible] their purpose to be to emancipate forthwith, and without compensation, and without moral preparation, three millions of negro slaves, under jurisdictions [illegible] from them under which they live. [illegible] abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia and in the Territory of Florida, and the new States, were only means towards the attainment of a much more important end. Another, and much [illegible] which this class is endeavoring [illegible] one portion against another, in all [illegible]

[illegible] ceded by the States of Maryland and Virginia. The object of the cession was to establish a seat of Government of the United States; and the grant in the Constitution of exclusive legislation must be understood, and always interpreted, as having relation to the object of the cession. It was with a full knowledge of this clause in the Constitution that these two States ceded to the General Government the ten miles square, constituting the District of Columbia.—In making the cession, they supposed that it was to be applied, and applied solely, to the purposes of a seat of Government, for which it was asked. When it was made, slavery existed in both those Commonwealths, and in the ceded territory, as it now continues to exist in all of them. Neither Maryland nor Virginia could have anticipated that, whilst the institution remained within their respective limits, its abolition would be attempted by Congress without their consent. Neither of them would probably have made an unconditional cession, if they could have anticipated such a result.

From the nature of the provision in the Constitution, and the avowed object of the acquisition of the territory, two duties arise on the part of Congress. The first is, to render the District available, comfortable, and convenient, as a seat of Government of the whole Union; the other is, to govern the people within the District so as best to promote their happiness and prosperity.—These objects are totally distinct in their nature, and, in interpreting and exercising the grant of power of exclusive legislation, that distinction should be constantly borne in mind. Is it necessary, in order to render this a comfortable seat of the General Government, to abolish slavery within its limits? No one can or will advance such a proposition. The Government has remained here near forty years without the slightest inconvenience from the presence of domestic slavery. Is it necessary to the well-being of the people of the District that slavery should be abolished from amongst them? They not only neither ask nor desire, but are almost unanimously opposed to it. It exists here in the mildest and most mitigated form. In a population of 39,834 there were, at the last enumeration of the population of the United States, but 6,119 slaves. The number has not probably much increased since. They are dispersed over the ten miles square, engaged in the quiet pursuits of husbandry, or in menial offices in domestic life. If it were necessary to the efficiency of this place as a seat of the General Government to abolish slavery, which is utterly denied, the abolition should be confined to the necessity which prompts it, that is, to the limits of the city of Washington itself. Beyond those limits, persons concerned in the Government of the United States have no more to do with the inhabitants of the District than they have with the inhabitants of the adjacent counties of Maryland and Virginia which lie beyond the District.

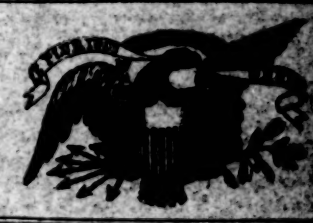
To abolish slavery within the District of Columbia whilst it remains in Virgina and Maryland, situated, as that District is, within the very heart of those States, would expose them to great practical inconvenience and annoyance. The District would become a place of refuge and escape for fugitive slaves from the two States, and a place from which a spirit of discontent, insubordination, and insurrection might be fostered and encouraged in the two States. Suppose, as was at one time under consideration, Pennsylvania had granted ten miles square within its limits for the purpose of a seat of the General Government: could Congress, without a violation of good faith, have introduced and established slavery within the bosom of that Commonwealth, in the ceded territory, after she had abolished it so long ago as the year 1780? Yet the inconvenience to Pennsylvania in the case supposed would have been much less than that to Virginia and Maryland in the case we are arguing.

It was upon this view of the subject that the Senate at its last session, solemnly declared that it would be a violation of implied faith, resulting from the transaction of the cession, to abolish slavery within the District of Columbia. And would it not be? By implied faith is meant that when a grant is made for one avowed and declared purpose known to the parties, the grant should not be perverted to another purpose unavowed and undeclared, and injurious to the grantor. The grant, in the case we are considering, of the territory of Columbia, was for a seat of Government. Whatever power is necessary to accomplish that object is carried along by the grant. But the abolition of slavery is not necessary to the enjoyment of this site as a seat of the General Government. The grant in the Constitution, of exclusive power of legislation over the District, was made to ensure the exercise of an exclusive authority of the General Government to render this place a safe and secure seat of Government, and to promote the well-being of the inhabitants of the District. The power granted ought to be interpreted and exercised solely to the end for which it was granted. The language of the grant was necessarily broad, comprehensive, and exclusive, because all the exigencies which might arise to render this a secure seat of the General Government could not have been foreseen and provided for. The language may possibly be sufficiently comprehensive to include a power of abolition, but it would not at all thence follow that the power could be rightfully exercised. The case may be resembled to that of a plenipotentiary invested with a plenary power, but who, at the same time, has positive instructions from his Government as to the kind of treaty which he is to negotiate and conclude. If he violates those instructions, and concludes a different treaty, his Government is not bound by it. And if the foreign Government is aware of the violation, it acts in bad faith. Or, it may be illustrated by an example drawn from private life. I am an endorser for my friend on a note discounted in Bank. He applies to me to endorse another to renew it, which I do in blank. Now this gives him power to make any other use of my note which he pleases. But if, instead of applying it to the intended purpose, he goes to a broker and sells it, thereby doubling my responsibility for him, he commits a breach of trust, and a violation of the good faith implied in the whole transaction.

But, Mr. President, if this reasoning were as erroneous as I believe it to be correct and conclusive, is the affair of the liberation of six thousand negro slaves in this District, disconnected with the three millions of slaves in the United States, of sufficient magnitude to agitate, distract, and embitter this great Confederacy?

The next case in which the petitioners ask the exercise of the power of Congress, relates to slavery in the Territory of Florida.

Florida is the extreme Southern portion of the United States. It is bounded on all its land sides by slave States, and is several hundred miles from the nearest free State. It almost extends within the tropics, and the nearest important island to it on the water side is Cuba, a slave island. This simple statement of its geographical position should of itself decide the question. When, by the treaty of 1819 with Spain, it was ceded to the United States, slavery existed within it. By the terms of that treaty, the effects and property of the inhabitants are secured to them, and they are allowed to remove and take them away, if they think proper to do so, without limitation as to time. If it were expedient, therefore, to abolish slavery in it, it could not be done consistently with the treaty, without granting to the owners [illegible] ble time to remove their [illegible] the compromise which [illegible] of the act for the ad[illegible] in the year 1[illegible]



THE WESTERN CAROLIN[illegible]

SALISBURY:

THURSDAY EVENING, MARCH 7, 18[illegible]

CONGRESS.—Last Monday being the [illegible] by law for the Session of Congress this ye[illegible] body has of course adjourned. We have [illegible] account as yet of the final business transac[illegible]

The bill providing for the safe keeping [illegible] lic money, introduced by Mr. Wright, [illegible] Senate; but owing to the late period of the [illegible] is not expected to meet an action in the H[illegible]

The bill to prevent the interference of offic[illegible] ers in elections, has been rejected in the [illegible]

The select committee on the delinq[illegible] Swartwout and others, has made a report, [illegible] in consequence of its great length, was not [illegible] but laid on the table and ordered to be prin[illegible]

An Important Discovery connected with [illegible] *Roads.*—The London Observer gives an [illegible] of a new, and important discovery for an improvement in rail-road cars. Under the new [illegible] Engine and train cannot possibly run off the [illegible] or upset; they can ascend and descend all [illegible] ble acclivities with speed and [illegible] save much of the great expense of [illegible] embankments, now incurred in construction.

A gentleman by the name of Kellum, [illegible] bly known to the scientific world, is the [illegible] or inventor of these improvements. If [illegible] shall equal the expectations of the London [illegible] who seem to be greatly taken with the plan, [illegible] be of immense value and importance to the [illegible] and especially to the United States where [illegible] are so many roads to make, and so little [illegible] command. Perhaps, then, North Carolina [illegible] begin to do something more than [illegible] such improvements.

MISSISSIPPI.—The Legislature of this State [illegible] recently passed a law to prevent the retail of [illegible] ous liquors in small quantities. We have [illegible] letter from a gentleman in Jackson: he says [illegible] tippling bill, so called, has passed the Leg[illegible] It prohibits the sale of ardent spirits in less [illegible] tities than a gallon, under penalty of fine [illegible] prisonment. Gen. Foote who introduced [illegible] was hung in effigy on the night after he [illegible] this, however, is not an evidence of the [illegible] public sentiment on this subject; for [illegible] people approve the law." We find in a [illegible] an abstract of the bill; it repeals all the [illegible] exist,—allowing inn-keepers or others to [illegible] spirituous liquors in small quantities, and [illegible] all persons from selling in less quantities than [illegible] gallon;—requires that liquor shall not be [illegible] the houses where it is purchased; [illegible] to negroes, and Indians in any quantity; [illegible] penalties incurred are: that all persons [illegible] of a violation of the law, shall, for the first [illegible] be fined in a sum of ten dollars [illegible] imprisoned, at the discretion of the court [illegible] their case, may cause their [illegible] tion of the offence, [illegible] and imprisonment, [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Prospect of War.—The late occurrences on the Frontier, which we noticed last week as having given out of the unsettled question of the boundary line between the State of Maine and the British Province of New Brunswick, are the occasion of great excitement at this time between the contending parties, and the excitement is rapidly extending itself, and seems to have reached Congress.—Some think that there is a fair prospect of the matter resulting in a war between the U. States and G. Britain. We hope and believe that there is no imminent danger of this. Mr. Van Buren's Message to Congress on the subject, is certainly a very pacific paper: at the same time that he asserts the rights of Maine boldly and distinctly, he is pacific and mild in his tone and language. Even Messrs. Webster, Adams, Clay, and others of the same party highly commend it and express their great satisfaction at its tone and spirit.

We confess in looking over the debates, we discover more of a war spirit than we like to see, but some allowance must be made for the excitement, and particularly for the warmth of the Maine members. Congress has appropriated a large sum to be used in military operations in the event of certain contingencies; but we hope these contingencies will not occur.

We believe that both the U. States and England are too wise to go to war for a matter of this kind; it would be greatly against the interest of both countries to do so. One thing is certain, from the position that our Government has assumed in the matter, if a war should take place, the fault will not wholly on Great Britain.

In the course of a few days, we hope to receive more favorable accounts from the seat of contention.

In another column will be found the Message of the President, to which we alluded above; and also, a joint recommendation of Mr. Forsyth, Secretary of State, and Mr. Fox, the British Minister, to the two contending parties; this recommendation, if it does not come too late, sets forth so clearly the way in which the difficulties may be honorably and fairly adjusted until a final decision of the question of boundary involved, that we think both parties will accede to the propositions which it contains, and so put to rest, the present disturbances.

MANUFACTURES.—We have lately had some practical illustrations, which will afford the most convincing arguments in demonstrating to our people the value of enterprise in building up manufactories at home. Within the past few weeks many of the planters and farmers in this section have sold their cotton, on the plantation, to the manufactories in the neighboring counties, (Rowan, we are sorry to say, not having one yet *completed*, as to the actual work,) for the highest market price at the time, 12 to 13½ cents; thus furnishing a proof of the advantages already beginning to result, even in its very infancy, from the system of improvements, which we see progressing: instead of the loss of time, labor, and expense in going to a distant market, the farmer is enabled to sell his cotton at home, for the same price that he is accustomed to get at the market towns. And this is only instancing in the case of one branch of industry, what will be realized by all occupations under the operation of the system when rightly carried out; the merchant and mechanic will find in the revival and increased amount of all kinds of business, a proportionate increase of profits in their respective pursuits. Let but this spirit of enterprise prosper, and the proposed schemes of Internal Improvement be carried forward with energy and liberality, and we shall soon see a re-action; the depopulating and impoverishing tide of emigration, which is daily draining the very life's blood of the State, will cease to flow out, and the immense natural resources of North Carolina, which now lie unimproved, and even unknown, for want of a spirit to develop them, will raise her to a more permanent and desirable state of prosperity than it would now be supposed reasonable to anticipate.

We notice by the last "Observer," that Gov. Dudley was expected in Fayetteville to attend a meeting of the Board of Internal Improvement, the object of which was to take some steps for obtaining subscriptions to the Fayetteville and Western Rail-Road.

Mr. Rives, of Virginia, in replying to the speech of his colleague, Mr. Roane, says—that he (Rives) is neither Democrat nor Federalist, but a Republican of the school of '98–99. *He* a Republican of the school of '98–99! A man who voted for the "bloody bill," who advocated and sustained the expunging resolutions and all the other illegal measures of Jackson's administration: was this in conformity with the Republican doctrines of that school? Mr. Rives has recently thrown off the mask, abandoned his old friends and taken himself over to his old enemies—the federal whigs; but his apostacy has not quite secured his re-election to the Senate. Certain of the whigs in the Virginia Legislature firmly took their stand against him, and could not be brought to vote for him under any circumstances whatever. After many ineffectual attempts to make a choice, the election was deferred until next session of the Assembly. Whenever the election does come on, we hardly think that the whigs of Virginia will be constrained to support, as their candidate, William C. Rives, whom they have in their ranks such men as John Tyler, and Chapman Johnson.

The Bill to grant banking privileges to the Charleston and Cincinnati Rail Road Company, has been re-considered in the House of Representatives of the Kentucky Legislature, and again lost by the [illegible] vote of [illegible].

[illegible]

To the Senate of the United States:

In my answer to your resolution of the 25th ultimo, I stated that the Governor of Maine, with an accompanying communication, had transmitted certain proceedings of the Legislature of that State, and a copy of the reply of the Secretary of State, made by my direction, together with a note from H. S. Fox, Esq. Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of Great Britain, with the answer of the Secretary of State to the same.

It will appear from these documents that a numerous band of lawless and desperate men, chiefly from the adjoining British Provinces, but without the authority or sanction of the Provincial Government, had trespassed upon that portion of the territory in dispute between the United States and Great Britain which is watered by the river Aroostook, and claimed to belong to the State of Maine; and that they had committed extensive depredations there by cutting and destroying a very large quantity of timber. It will further appear that the Governor of Maine, having been officially apprised of the circumstance, had communicated it to the Legislature, with a recommendation of such provisions, in addition to those already existing by law, as would enable him to arrest the course of said depredations, disperse the trespassers, and secure the timber which they were about carrying away; that in compliance with a resolve of the Legislature, passed in pursuance of his recommendation, his Excellency had despatched the land agent of the State, with a force deemed adequate to that purpose, to the scene of the alleged depredations, who, after accomplishing a part of his duty, was seized by a band of the trespassers, at a house claimed to be within the jurisdiction of Maine, whither he had repaired for the purpose of meeting and consulting with the land agent of the Province of New Brunswick, and conveyed as a prisoner to Fredericton, in that Province, together with two other citizens of the State, who were assisting him in the discharge of his duty.

It will also appear that the Governor and Legislature of Maine, satisfied that the trespassers had acted in defiance of the laws of both countries, learning that they were in possession of arms, and anticipating (correctly, as the result has proved) that persons of their reckless and desperate character would set at nought the authority of the magistrates, without the aid of a strong force, had authorized the sheriff, and the officer appointed in the place of the land agent, to employ, at the expense of the State, an armed posse, who had proceeded to the scene of these depredations, with a view to the entire dispersion or arrest of the trespassers and the protection of the public property.

In the correspondence between the Governor of Maine and Sir John Harvey, Lieutenant Governor of the Province of New Brunswick, which has grown out of these occurrences, and is likewise herewith communicated, the former is requested to recall the armed party advanced into the disputed territory for the arrest of trespassers, and is informed that a strong body of British troops is to be held in readiness to support and protect the authority and subjects of Great Britain in said territory. In answer to that request the Provincial Governor is informed of the determination of the State of Maine to support the land agent and his party, in the performance of their duty, and the same determination, for the execution of which provision is made by a resolution of the State Legislature, is communicated by the Governor to the General Government.

The Lieutenant Governor of New Brunswick, in calling upon the Governor of Maine for the recall of the land agent and his party from the disputed territory, and the British Minister in making a similar demand upon the Government of the United States, proceed upon the assumption that an agreement exists between the two nations conceding to Great Britain, until the final settlement of the boundary question, exclusive possession of, and jurisdiction over, the territory in dispute. The important bearing which such an agreement, if it existed, would have upon the condition and interests of the parties, and the influence it might have upon the adjustment of the dispute, are too obvious to allow the error upon which this assumption seems to rest to pass for a moment without correction. The answer of the Secretary of State to Mr. Fox's note, will show the ground taken by the Government of the United States upon this point. It is believed that all the correspondence which has passed between the two Governments upon this subject has already been communicated to Congress, and is now on their files. An abstract of it, however, hastily prepared, accompanies this communication. It is possible that in thus abridging a voluminous correspondence, commencing in 1825 and continuing to a very recent period, a portion may have been accidentally overlooked; but it is believed that nothing has taken place which would materially change the aspect of the question as therein presented. Instead of sustaining the assumption of the British functionaries that correspondence disproves the existence of any such agreement. It shows that the two Governments have differed not only in regard to the main question of title to the territory in dispute, but with reference also to the right of jurisdiction, and the fact of the actual exercise of it in different portions thereof. Always aiming at an amicable adjustment of the dispute, both parties have entertained and repeatedly urged upon each other a desire, that each should exercise its rights, whatever it considered them to be, in such a manner as to avoid collision, and allay, to the greatest practical extent, the excitement likely to grow out of the controversy. It was in pursuance of such an understanding that Maine and Massachusetts, upon the remonstrance of Great Britain, desisted from making sales of lands, and the General Government from the construction of a projected military road in a portion of the territory of which they claimed to have enjoyed the exclusive possession; and that Great Britain, on her part, in deference to a similar remonstrance from the United States, suspended the issue of licenses to cut timber in the territory in controversy, and also the survey and location of a railroad through a section of country over which she also claimed to have exercised exclusive jurisdiction.

The State of Maine had a right to arrest the depredations complained of; it belonged to her to judge of the exigency of the occasion calling for her interference; and it is presumed that had the Lieutenant Governor of New Brunswick been correctly advised of the nature of the proceedings of the State of Maine, he would not have regarded the transaction as requiring, on his part, any resort to force. Each party claiming a right to the territory, and hence to the exclusive jurisdiction over it, it is manifest that, to prevent the destruction of the timber by trespassers, acting against the authority of both, and at the same time avoid forcible collision between the contiguous Governments [illegible] the adjustment concerning [illegible] to be had to the mutual exercise [illegible] by concert, jointly or [illegible] New Brunswick and Maine, who have been [illegible] into custody by the opposite parties, shall be released.

Nothing in this memorandum shall be construed to fortify or to weaken in any respect whatever the claim of either party to the ultimate possession of the disputed territory.

The Minister Plenipotentiary of her Britannic Majesty having no specific authority to make any arrangement on the subject, the undersigned can only recommend, as they now earnestly do, to the Governments of New Brunswick and Maine, to regulate their future proceedings according to the terms hereinbefore set forth, until the final settlement of the territorial dispute, or until the Governments of the United States and Great Britain shall come to some definitive conclusion on the subordinate point upon which they are now at issue.

JOHN FORSYTH, *Secretary of State of the United States of North America.*

H. S. FOX, *H. B. M. Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary.*

WASHINGTON, February 27, 1839.

"In 1791, only 188,316 lbs. cotton were exported from the United States; in 1798, it was less than 1,000,000; in 1802, the amount was 27,501,075 lbs.; in 1819, it was 87,997,045 lbs.; in 1820, it was 127,860,152 lbs.; and in 1830, it amounted to 298,450,102 lbs., in value $29,675,883! This amount in value was *less*, by $7,000,000, than in 1825, when the quantity was less by 122,000,000 lbs., the price in the latter year being more than double that of the former. The amount exported during the year ending with September, 1838, was upwards of 630,000,000 lbs., leaving of that year's crop, including nearly 8,000,000 lbs. of stock of the previous year, which remained on hand, upwards of 98,000,000 lbs. for home consumption, the year's crop, in round numbers, exceeding 720,000,000 lbs!

[*Editors Correspondence.*]

FAYETTEVILLE, March 2, 1839.

There is but little worthy of remark in the business of the present week; our last week's quotation of prices of produce have been fully maintained.

Cotton we quote $12½ to 14½ as to quality; corn 81; wheat $1 35 a 1 40; oats 50 a 55; flour (inspected) $6 50, 7, a 7 50; leaf tobacco $10 a 10 25; lard 10 a 11; tallow 10; butter 18 a 25; bacon 10; whiskey 60 a 62½; brandy, apple, 75 a 80; peach none to fix a price; flaxseed 1 25, the season being over, little or none in market. There has been shipped from this place during the last two months, about 1,000 casks flaxseed, making an aggregate this season of 2,200 casks or 15,400 bushels. There has been shipped during the last two months, 2,300 barrels flour. There has been inspected in this town, the present season, something over 6,006 barrels.

Since the first of January last, there has been shipped from this place 240 bales equal to 48,000 pounds cotton yarn, manufactured in this town and in adjoining counties. This is only a beginning, but bids very fair for the old North State one day becoming a manufacturing State.

We quote sugar, coffee, and iron as last week's. Molasses, common fair quality, 34 a 37; New Orleans, 42 a 45; sack salt $2 50 a 2 75; a lot 500 bushels alum salt has changed hands, delivered at the wharf at 58 which is the only transaction to notice except to the retail trade the present week.

No arrivals since our last.—Departed, Monday 25th ult., steamer Henrietta, with boat Diligence in tow, with full freight of flour, cotton, cotton yarn, wheat, flaxseed, &c. And, on the 27th, boat Messenger with full freight as above.

Our river is in excellent order for boats—several of our merchants are absent, North, making their purchases for the Spring trade.

UNITED IN WEDLOCK,

In this County on the 28th inst., by the Rev. Jos. D. Hall, Mr. JAMES BLACKWELL to Miss ELIZABETH JOHNSON.

"Happy they!—the happiest of their kind,—
Whom mutual love and friendship blends,
In one, their beings, fortunes, and their minds,
'Till death, the lovely union ends."

In Davie County on the 24th ult., by Jesse A. Clement, Esq. Mr. WILSON MARTIN to Miss LUCINDA GIBBONS.

Also, in the same County on the 28th ult., by Henry Keller, Esq., Mr. PETER CASPER to Miss LEAH DAYWALT.

DEPARTED THIS LIFE,

In Richmond, Va., on the 25th ultimo, after a long and tedious illness, Dr. ERASMUS WILLIE, formerly a resident of this Town.

Notice.

THE undersigned Citizens of Rowan, Davidson, and Montgomery Counties, respectfully request the Postmasters, and other citizens interested on mail route (No. 9164) or the route leading from Mont Lebanon in Davidson, to Lawrenceville in Montgomery, and back once per week, to meet at Dr. J. M. Worth's, near the Narrows of the Yadkin, on Monday the 25th of March, for the purpose of changing said route, or so improving it as to meet the wishes of the Public.

ROWAN.

H. W. Connor, H. C. Jones,
D. A. Davis, B. Austin,
R. W. Long, R. Crowell,
L. Bringle.

MONTGOMERY.

Eli Harris, Edward Burrage,
James L. Gaines, Wm. Stokes, Sen'r.
Thos. J. Bright, Wm. Stokes, Jr.

DAVIDSON.

Travers Daniel, John Saunders.

Notice.

I see another advertisement signed Warnoth & Gibson, informing the Public that we have again associated ourselves together in the Carriage Making Business. Such is not the fact. The advertisement was put in without my advice or consent, and I want so to inform the Public through the columns of your paper.

JOHN GIBSON.

March 7th, 1839. 1t

JUST RECEIVED AND FOR SALE,

WHOLESALE & RETAIL,

250 Plough Moulds,
Bar Scollep and Tire Iron,
5,000 lbs. Castings, (assorted,)
20 bls. Superfine Flour,
40 bu. mountain Irish Potatoes,
30 bu. herd Grass Seed,
6,000 lbs. Lexington Cotton Yarns,
1,500 lbs. Bar Lead,
10 kegs Powder,
10 doz. superior Weeding Hoes,
75 kegs White Lead (ground in Oil,)
8 casks Rice,
25 hhds. Molasses,
Sugar, Coffee, Nails, and Salt,

by J. & W. MURPHY.

Salisbury, Feb. 28, 1839.

DENTAL SURGERY.

DR. [illegible], Surgeon Dentist, has opened at [illegible] where he will remain [illegible]

NEW GOODS.

R. BRICKHEAD & [illegible]

having opened their Establishment in the TINNING AND SHEET IRON BUSINESS,

WOULD respectfully announce to their friends and the public generally, that they have on hand and keep constantly on hand and for sale, a large and extensive assortment of

Tin Ware, Copper Stills,

and, in short, almost every article in the above line that can be manufactured to this country.

Their Shop is situated on Main-street, between Crress & Bruer's, and J. & W. Murphy's stores.

N. B. Orders from a distance for work will be thankfully attended to.

Salisbury, March 7, 1839.

A New Confectionary

F. R. ROUSEE,

(FROM PHILADELPHIA)

WOULD respectfully inform the citizens of Salisbury and vicinity, that he has established a Confectionary, a few doors south of the Court House, in Salisbury, where he intends to keep constantly on hand the following kinds of

Candies, Oranges,
Fruit, Wines,
Nuts, Spirits,
Cakes, Segars,
Crackers, Fish,
Raisins, Ale,
Cider, &c.

Mr. R. would respectfully inform the public he intends opening a

RESTAURATEUR,

(after the Parisian fashion) in which he will take great pleasure in accommodating his friends with a fine cup of French Coffee, or any variety of Dishes that customers may desire.

Salisbury, Feb. 21, 1839.

DR. T. J. [illegible]

(Surgeon Dentist)

WILL be absent from Salisbury, [illegible] persons from the Country desiring Dental operations performed on their Teeth, will [illegible] immediately on his return, by leaving their orders at the Mansion Hotel.

February 14, 1839.

No Joke!

ALL persons indebted to the [illegible] Note or Book account on the 1st day of March next, are most respectfully informed that unless they make immediate payment, they will be sued without further ceremony.

We trust our friends will take this notice in good humor, as necessity compels us to the disagreeable discrimination.

[illegible]

Salisbury, Feb. 21, 1839.

Runaway

FROM the Subscriber on the 11th [illegible] instant, an apprentice to the Blacksmithing business, by the name of MARTIN FRIEZE. [illegible] between nineteen and 20 years of age, [illegible] built, black hair, and about 5 feet [illegible] persons are hereby cautioned not to harbor said boy as I will put the law in force against any one for so doing. The reward of a ready [illegible] no thanks, will be given for his delivery to me in Davidson county, N. C.

THOMAS [illegible]

Rowan co. Feb. 21, 1839.

The Noted Sporting [illegible]

CLOCK HEAD,

WILL STAND THE ENSUING SEASON at the subscriber's stable in MOCKSVILLE.

For further particulars see bills.

JOHN JONES.

Salisbury, Feb. 14, 1839.

Money Wanted!

FROM 1,000, to $2,000 Dollars wanted, on which Security will be given, either on Real Estate, Negroes, or the best of Personal Security.

☞ For further particulars, reference may be had by calling on Dr. Austin, Salisbury.

February 7, 1839.

Mulberry Trees.

AS the demand for Mulberry Trees is much greater than [illegible] Subscriber has concluded [illegible] of his stock intended for the ensuing [illegible] are of the genuine *Morus Alba*, as [illegible] ted in Italy and France; and which [illegible] Silk Culture admit, make the best [illegible] of the second year's growth, they [illegible] be transplanted, which may save [illegible] part of those wishing to engage in the business. I have to spare can be delivered at any time [illegible] this and the 1st of March, and upon terms more [illegible] than the Northern prices. Letters addressed to Davidson College, post paid, will be promptly [illegible] to.

R. H. MORRISON.

Davidson College, Dec. 25, 1838.

Head Quarters, 64th Regt.

SALISBURY, Jan. 30, 1839.

ATTENTION!

COMMISSIONED OFFICERS OF 64TH REGT.

YOU are hereby commanded to Parade at the Court-House, in the Town of Salisbury, on Saturday the 9th March, at 11 o'clock, A. M., to proceed by ballot to elect a Maj. General, for the 6th Division of North Carolina Militia, to supply the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Thos. G. Polk.

R. W. LONG, Col. Commandant,
64th Regiment N. C. Militia.

January 31, 1839. 6tw

The Thoroughbred Horse

EATON,

HAS arrived at his stable in Salisbury, where he will remain during the ensuing season. His terms will be [illegible] the Mare [illegible] and no [illegible] For further particulars see bills.

Mansion House, Salisbury, Feb. [illegible]

Look at this!

THE Printing Establishment of the [illegible] is offered for sale on accommodating terms. It is a good practical printer with a small [illegible] very desirable one. [illegible]

[illegible] RECESS.

[illegible] from the Southern Literary Messenger.

THE PILGRIM AMID THE RUINS OF ROME.

BY JOHN C. M'CABE.

"Come and see
The cypress, hear the owl, and plod your way
O'er steps of broken thrones and temples, ye!
Whose agonies are evils of a day—
A world is at our feet, as fragile as our clay.
Childe Harold.

I am no longer now the artless child,
Plucking wild flowers, singing boyhood's lays;
Roving the wood when summer's sunset mild,
Lights the rich foliage with its dying rays.
But lo! 'mid monuments of old I stand!
And gaze around on columns thickly strewn,
And touch time's reliques with my trembling hand,
Amid them gleams, thro' clouds, the pale cold moon.

Land of departed greatness! in thy fate
I read earth's history, and man's, and mine:
Lo! the proud throne, where mighty Cæsar sat,
Is desolate! and weeds with ivy twine
The broken ring where gladiators fought;—
And where a thousand voices rent the air,
When the poor victor of an hour sought
His crown of leaves,—not e'en an echo's there!

And 'twas for this I left my happy home,
Where sunny smiles and pleasure-beaming eyes
Would meet me, o'er this gloomy waste to roam—
For what? To boast of other lands and skies!
To tell, when years shall frost this head, that I
Have stood where mighty Cæsar stood; have gazed
Upon the wreck of columns, where the sky
Once mildly glow'd when Rome's proud temples blazed.

To say I've looked upon the crumbling walls
Of the great Coliseum; and have wept
At midnight 'midst its ruins, when there falls
Upon its cold grey stones the dew—and slept
Unharmed where bloody, cruel Nero dwelt;
And dreamed I heard the viol's thrilling string,
And felt, the cold and slimy serpent felt,
As gliding o'er he seemed to own no sting:

That I have seen the lightning banners waving,
And heard the wild artillery of the skies;
And the rude tempest's tempest proudly braving;
Have watched, 'till o'er the Vatican the dyes
Of Heaven's rainbow spann'd the visual line;
And felt my bosom lighten'd of its load,
As God hung out his promised mercy's sign,
And 'round the rolled arch its colors glow'd,

Like hope descending on a broken heart,
Throwing its glories over desert sorrow,
Till woe seems beautiful, and e'en the dart
That wounds, bears token of a blessed morrow:

That I have seen old Tiber's yellow waves,
And heard their mournful dash at midnight, while
The hunting owl shriek'd over heroes' graves,
And the pale stars would o'er the waters smile
In sadness; and have caught the mournful sigh,
Of ghosts through ruined, desolated halls;
And watched the meteor, with fear's upturn'd eye,
As on some blasted monument 'twould fall.

Yes! I shall, when o'er my wrinkled brow,
Come the dim phantoms of my by-gone years;
And these sad relics which I look on now,
Shall float along upon the aged tears—
Purchases I may my children's children tell,
That I, ambitious, sought to gain a name,
By standing where earth's greatest masters *fell*,
And found, as nothing worth, the breath of fame.

Oh! human grandeur! fleeting as the beam
That lights the vision of the poet's soul;
Oh! human glory! passing like the stream
Whose current swiftness never brooks control.
A crumbling column, ivy overgrown—
A tottering arch, where mimic serpents twine—
A fallen temple and a ruined throne,
A broken altar with a shivered shrine!

This is Earth's history! The hero's meed!
The warrior's triumph, and the end of fame!
The innovator's pride, the bigot's creed,
The light of science, and delusion's flame!
I feel rebuked—an humbled worm I turn,
Away from these memorials, and retrace
My steps, that while life's wasting lamp shall burn,
Its rays may light me to my resting place.

Richmond, 1839.

VARIETY.

An American Sketch.—"Steward?" "Sar!"—"Whose over-coat is this in my berth?" "Judge Jobson, sar." "Then take it away directly; but stop, whose cloak is that on top of my portmanteau?" "Judge Jobson, sar," "Then put it with the coat." "Yes, sar," "And, see here, whose pistols is this under my pillow?" "Judge Jobson, sar,"—"And who owns this clothes-basket, and the walking stick, and a Welsh wig, and a tomahawk?" "All Judge Jobson, sar." "Then clear 'em all out before I have time to throw them overboard; and, tell me, steward, who has the berth above mine?" "Judge Jobson, sar."—"Well, I'm glad of that, for he'll have the benefit of hearing that fellow who paced up and down the deck all last night, stamping like a nigger's double shuffle over my head; do you know who it was?" "Yes, sar; Judge Jobson, sar." Damn Judge Jobson, why it seems that there is nobody but Judge Jobson on board, eh?" Oh! yes Sar, great many odder gentlemen else." "However take—Oh! bless me! there's somebody tumbled down the cabin stairs, what a fall!—he must have broken his neck; who is it?" "Oh, only Judge Jobson, Sar." "Then, thank God, there's an end of Judge Jobson at last."—*Sporting Review.*

As a train of cars was passing along one of the rail roads a few days since, under full headway, the engineer observed an old woman running towards the train from a house he was about passing, waving her hands and exhibiting great anxiety lest the train should go by without stopping. Supposing that her errand was important, he checked the locomotive, and moved slowly along, until the old lady—who had run herself nearly out of breath—gradually approached within hailing distance. "Well marm," cried the conductor, "what do you want?" "I want," replied the dame, screeching at the top of her voice, "I want to know if you want to buy any squashes?" The way the steam was put on the locomotive for the next five miles, was a caution to land turtles.—*Sat. Cour.*

Wellerisms.—"You'll find me out," as the fox said you he left one end of his hole and saw the dog digging away at the other.

"Your kindness is too pressing," as the fellow said to the bear that was squeezing him to death.

"Let us remove temptation from the path of youth," as the tortoise said when he plunged into the water upon seeing a boy pick up a stone.—*Ib.*

Bible: Whig.—An abolition paper contains the following paragraph:—"Bail out the Atlantic with a teaspoon—pierce Leviathan's vitals with a knitting stick—quench Vesuvius with the contents of a goblet—then you may talk of 'wiping away the stain of slavery from our national escutcheon,' by sending them to Liberia!"

[illegible] the [illegible] gone far enough—the [illegible] have [illegible] the globe in a thimble,

A Good Parliament Man.—"I think," said a farmer, "I should make a good parliament man, for I use their language. I received two bills the other day, with request for immediate payment; the one I ordered to be laid on the table—the other to be read that day six months!"

Tea Water.—Hard water, by boiling, may be brought nearly to the state of soft. A piece of chalk put into spring water will soften it. When the steam from a tea kettle appears cloudy, it should be taken off the fire, as the water is then fast boiling away. Keep the top of a kettle bright, as a polished surface keeps in the heat.

When we reflect that every mother has children of surprising genius, it is a matter of serious inquiry where all the ordinary men come from who cross our path in every day of life.

Women should be acquainted, that no beauty has any charms but the inward one of the mind, and that a gracefulness in the manners is much more engaging than that of their persons; that meekness and modesty are the true lasting ornaments; for she that has these, is qualified as she ought to be for the management of a family, for the educating her children, for an affection for her husband, and submitting to a prudent way of living. These only are the charms that render wives amiable, and give them the best title to our respect.—*Epictetus.*

THE MARKETS.

AT SALISBURY.....March 7, 1839.

	Cents		Cents
Bacon,	10 a 12½	Molasses,	62½ a 75
Brandy, apple,	none	Nails,	9 a 10
peach,	none	Oats,	30 a 35
Butter,	10 a 12½	Sugar, brown,	11 a 12
Cotton, in seed,	300	loaf,	18 a 20
clean,	12 a 13	Salt,	150
Coffee,	16 a 18	Tallow,	10 a 12½
Corn,	a 50	Tobacco,	8 a 20
Feathers,	37 a 40	Wheat, (bushel)	100 a 000
Flour,	500 a 650	Whiskey,	45 a 50
Flaxseed,	75		

Linseed Oil, pr. gal. $1 12½.—Eggs pr. doz. 8 a 10

AT CHERAW.....February 26, 1839.

Bacon, lb.	10 a 14	Nails, cut,	7½ a 8
Butter,	15 a 20	wrought,	16 a 18
Beeswax,	22 a 24	Oats,	a 50
Coffee,	12½ a 16	Rice,	550 a 625
Cotton,	13 a 15	Sugar,	10 a 12½
Corn,	75 a 100	Salt,	325 a 350
Flour, country,	650 a 800	Steel, American,	10 a 12½
Iron,	5 a 6½	English,	00 a 14
Lard,	12½ a 15	German,	12 a 14
Leather, sole,	22 a 25	Tallow,	10 a 12½
Molasses,	45 a 50	Tea,	100 a 137
Orleans,	50 a 62½	Tobacco, ma'ftd.	10 a 50

PROSPECTUS
OF THE
AMERICAN MUSEUM,

A monthly Magazine, embellished with Steel Portraits.

ON the first of January, 1839, was commenced the second volume of the American Museum of Literature and the Arts. This Magazine is a depository of papers in the various departments of Literature, Science, and the Arts, calculated alike to instruct, profit and please the reader. As utility is the characteristic of the age, the Museum contains articles of solid interest upon Science, Literature, History, Biography, and Morals. Reviews and literary criticisms, so important in this publishing age, occupy a prominent place in the work. It, also, contains short reviews of the entire works of distinguished American authors, accompanied by portraits engraved on steel.

The solidity of the work is relieved by lighter articles—such as graceful essays, interesting and amusing tales, criticisms upon the fine arts, legends, sketches of travel, literary and scientific intelligence, and poetry of a superior order.

The very favorable reception which the work has met from the press and the public, has justified the proprietors in making liberal arrangements for contributions to the second volume; and they have accordingly made large additions to their corps of regular contributors. In the January number will be found original papers from the following popular writers:

Rev. Dr. Beasley, Rev. J. G. Morris, Rev. J. H Clinch, David Hoffman, Esq., W. G. Simms, Charles West Thompson, T. R. Holland, H. T. Tuckerman, E. A. Poe, Professor Fisher of the University of Maryland, Professor Foreman, W. B. Tappan, Mrs. Sigourney, Miss H. F. Gould, Mrs. Emma C. Embury.—Besides these, many other writers of known ability have contributed to the work, and will continue to aid us.

In this number is the commencement of a series of "Italian Sketches," by a gentleman of taste and scholarship who has been sojourning in that classic country Besides these, the future numbers of the Museum will contain articles from distinguished European writers,—although we are far more anxious to receive assistance from, and encourage, native talent.

PLATES.—Portraits on steel, by a distinguished artist, similar to that of Washington Irving in the September number, and of J. F. Cooper in the January number, will continue to embellish the work.

TERMS.—THE AMERICAN MUSEUM is printed on good paper, with new type, and makes two volumes a year, of more than 500 pages each. Price $5 per annum, payable in advance. Four copies will be sent one year for $15. We shall be happy to receive applications, *post paid*, for travelling and local agencies, with references enclosed. All communications must be *post paid*, and directed to the editors.

TRAVELLING AGENTS greatly needed.

BROOKS & SNODGRASS,
Editors and Proprietors.